

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:DAKORN/CHILL:DE
APPROVED BY NEA:MDRAPER
NEA/IAI:AMB. LEWIS
S/S-O:JTHYDEN
IO:G-ELMAN

-----013154 300325Z /62

O 300258Z AUG 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 220265

EXDIS, FOR THE CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, LEB, SYR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH BEGIN - LEBANON SITUATION

1. IN VIEW OF INTENSE ISRAELI CONCERN OVER SITUATION IN LEBABON MANIFESTED IN THE PRESS AND IN STATEMENTS BY LIKUD AND LABOR PARTY SPOKESMAN, IT DOES SEEM LIKELY THAT BEGIN WILL RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH YOU IN MEETING WEDNESDAY MORNING. WE BELIEVE THE BEST TACTIC WILL BE FOR YOU TO HEAR BEGIN OUT AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

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2. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RENEWAL OF CLASHES IN LEBANON AND THE RISKS OF EXPANDED FIGHTING. WE WILL BE MAKING URGENT REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SYRIANS, BOTH HERE IN WASHINGTON AND THROUGH AMBASSADOR SEELYE IN DAMASCUS (DESPITE FACT SEELYE HAS NOT YET PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS) TO MAKE THE POINT THAT RECENT SYRIAN ACTIONS ARE CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERN AND RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT SARG'S IN-

TENTIONS. WE WILL BE URGING RESTRAINTS ON THE SYRIANS AND WILL POINT OUT THE DANGER FOR WIDER REGIONAL CONFLICT THAT THE SITUATION PRESENTS, AS WELL AS THE NEED TO AVOID PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS, AND OVERREACTION TO PROVOCATION EVEN WHEN IT IS BLATANT. WE WILL ALSO BE INSTRUCTING OUR CHARGE IN BEIRUT TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO CONSULT WITH THE GOL AND GET AS CLEAR A PICTURE AS

POSSIBLE OF THE SITUATION, INCLUDING HIS VIEW OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS.

3. WE WILL ALSO BE APPROACHING MAJOR WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO SEEK THEIR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING CLEAR TO THE SARG THAT ITS ACTIONS ARE CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERN.

4. WE WANT TO GET ACROSS ALSO, HOWEVER, THAT THE SIGNALS COMING FROM LEBANON DO NOT POINT ALL IN ONE DIRECTION. WE HAVE A REPORT THAT THE SYRIAN COMMANDER WHO ORDERED THE OPERATIONS IN BECHARRE HAS BEEN RELIEVED. THIS MAY SUGGEST DAMASCUS REALIZES ITS COMMANDERS HAVE GONE TOO FAR.

5. YOU MAY TELL BEGIN THAT AS SOON AS WE HAVE TALKED WITH THE SYRIAN AMBASSADOR AND GOTTEN REPORT FROM AMBASSADOR SEELYE AND FROM BEIRUT, AND FROM OTHER POSTS THAT WILL BE MAKING APPROACHES, WE WILL BE BACK IN TOUCH TO SHARE WITH THE ISRAELIS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED. MEANWHILE, PARTICULARLY
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IN VIEW OF THE UPCOMING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT, IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT ALL PARTIES EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND NOT ALLOW RHETORIC TO LIMIT OR DETERMINE THEIR OPTIONS.

6. YOU SHOULD ALSO MENTION TO BEGIN OUR SERIOUS CONCERN AT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. WHEN BRIAN URQUHART MET WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS, HE FELT THAT HE HAD A COMMITMENT FROM ISRAEL TO ALLOW GREATER FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR UNIFIL WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE UN HAS LEARNED THAT ISRAEL IS UNABLE TO MEET THIS COMMITMENT. WE LEARNED FROM NEW YORK THAT THE UN IS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED -- AS ARE WE -- AT THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT ISRAEL'S UNWILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH UNIFIL, AND TO FACILITATE FULFILLMENT BY UNIFIL OF ITS MANDATE, WILL BE A MAJOR ITEM IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL PRIOR TO ITS MEETING IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO CONSIDER RENEWAL OF UNIFIL'S MANDATE. WE URGE BEGIN TO REVIEW MATTER URGENTLY AND DETERMINE WHAT MEASURES MIGHT BE TAKEN PROMPTLY TO FACILITATE UNIFIL'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BRIEFING MATERIALS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE220265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DAKORN/CHILL:DE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780353-0611
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978087/aaaaafye.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7fbc8264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1757083
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH BEGIN - LEBANON SITUATION
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, MOPS, IS, LE, SY, (BEGIN, MENACHEM)
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7fbc8264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014